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ABSTRACT

This booklet shows parents and other adults how to use entertainment television to spark discussions with children and adolescents about sexuality, values, responsibility, communication, and other sensitive subjects (personal relationships, race and culture, drug use). First published in 1989, this booklet has been updated annually. Discussion questions and activities in the guide focus primarily on preadolescents--children between the ages of 9 and 12 years--but are of use with both younger and older audiences as well. This guide from 1993-1994 features plot summaries of returning shows popular with preadolescents and adolescents and new shows which, most likely, will attract a young audience. The guide does not endorse or rate shows; it chooses those most likely to raise important issues. Most of the shows highlighted in the guide are broadcast in primetime. Included in the guide are names and addresses of production companies, networks, cable channels, and other organizations concerned with television. (Author/NB)

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The Center for Population Options (CPO)

CPO is a multi-dimensional, nonprofit organization founded in 1980 to increase the opportunities and abilities youth have for making healthy decisions about sexuality. In the U.S. and developing nations, CPO provides information, education and advocacy to youth-serving agencies and professionals, policymakers and the media.

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The CPO Media Project

CPO's Los Angeles-based Media Project works with the entertainment media to generate accurate, relevant portrayals of sexuality. It offers information, research findings and free script consultation to writers and producers. The project's annual presentation of its Nancy Susan Reynolds Awards is a recognized ceremony honoring television programs, music videos and theatrical films that address sexuality issues in a creative, sensitive and factual manner.

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Talking With TV: What is it?

The finding is astounding–children in the United States spend more time watching TV than doing anything else except sleeping. Research continues on how television influences their attitudes. But one thing is clear now: so long as television continues to have such a predominant place in young people's lives, adults must make it a communications ally.

Talking With TV shows parents and other adults how to use entertainment television to spark discussions with children and teens about sexuality ,values, responsibility, communication and other sensitive subjects. These subjects include personal relationships, race and culture and drug use.

CPO first published ***Talking With TV*** in 1989 The booklet has been updated annually.

Discussion questions and activities in this guide focus primarily on pre-teens–children 9 to 12–but are of use with both younger and older audiences.

***Talking With TV*'s Program Guide for 1993-94** features plot summaries of returning shows popular with pre-teens and teens and new shows which, most likely, will attract a young audience. CPO does not endorse or rate shows; we choose those most likely to raise important issues. Except for late-afternoon specials and Saturday-morning shows, programs are broadcast in "primetime," between 7:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

Talking With TV also includes the **names and addresses** of production companies, networks, cable channels and organizations concerned with television.

CPO hopes this booklet will help you make TV an ally in exploring important issues with children.

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Carol Potter plays the mother of adolescents on Beverly Hills, 90210

This Mother Knows Best, Both On and Off Screen

From a parent's perspective, television is delivering a lot of good information to children these days. But there's still room for improvement; some entertainment programs send confusing, insensitive or clearly wrong messages about important issues. I know the medium's strengths and weaknesses particularly well, because I'm Mom on and off the screen.

Playing Cindy Walsh, mother of teenage twins Brandon and Brenda on ***Beverly Hills, 90210****, has given me four years to consider the ways young people learn to make decisions about subjects ranging from family and peer relationships to sexual behavior to values and culture. Being the real-life parent of a six-year-old boy challenges me to find positive ways to explore those kinds of topics with my child. And working as a television actress gives me the chance to analyze how TV talks to our children–how it can teach them and how it can confuse them.*

My conclusion is that it is important and possible for adults and children to "talk with" TV, as this booklet will show you. Shows popular with young audiences can launch excellent family discussions, so long as parents watch the shows with their children. You can find out why children like certain programs and don't like others. What seems "real" to them? What doesn't? You may be surprised by what they have to say.

On stage and off, clear dialogue is essential. So use ***Talking With TV*** *to help spark communication that encourages young people to share their opinions. Offer the kids you care about constructive guidance, and take time to learn from them, too. That's what this mom tries to do at work and at home!*

Carol Potter

TV, Our Children and Sex

Television is everywhere—in our homes, our schools, our workplaces. We organize living rooms and life's daily routines around it. It has become, in less than 50 years, an omnipresent source of information about human nature. Unmatched by any other communications medium, television helps shape national and international events, provoke social change and influence the thinking and purchasing habits of viewers.

"Are you watching TV *again*?"

Children in this country spend more time tuned into TV than they spend at school or interacting with their friends and family. Many adults encourage reading, sports, studies and other activities as alternatives to "the tube," and they try to limit children's viewing hours—one inventive parent markets an automatic shut-off timer he devised. But so long as society remains infatuated with TV, so too will young people.

Adults who live or work with youth cannot help but worry about the variety of messages TV programs and commercials send children. Researchers are just beginning to document what parents and youth-serving professionals observe frequently: much of what children learn about the world of adults comes from television.

What they learn is often misleading. Television shows are meant to entertain, so they present an adult world that is generally captivating and uncomplicated. Material goods are easy to come by and most problems can be resolved in 24 minutes, allowing time for commercials.

Sexual Messages

Children learn about the mechanics of sex from parents and peers, sexuality education in schools, sometimes from books and magazines. From television, they learn about sexual expression—though they don't always recognize what they're learning. Dress, dialogue, even sight gags send obvious messages, but other signals are more subtle: the quirk of an eyebrow, laughter, background music, camera angles, even the kinds of cars characters drive and whether and how a person drinks alcohol or smokes cigarettes.

TV's messages about sexuality are often misguided, like this familiar theme: Sex is best practiced by beautiful young people; older or fat characters who wish to engage in sex are funny. Though wrong, these messages affect young people.

Adults, meanwhile, worry about the explosion of sexual content on television and its relationship to sexual activity, unintended adolescent pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases including HIV infection and AIDS.

How to Make TV an Ally

An Awakening

Thankfully, quality entertainment programs have begun offering children and adults positive, educational messages and information about sexuality. (The Media Project of The Center for Population Options honors several of these shows annually with its Nancy Susan Reynolds Award.) More shows and specials have begun to depict responsible, wise and honest decisions about sex and sexual relationships.

But the fact remains that even as many shows become more responsible and informative, many others distort or make light of sexuality and emotions. But even "bad" shows can spark meaningful discussions between adults and children.

The bottom line is that television lives with you and it gets your children's attention, sometimes more successfully than you do! So when young people watch, with them. Seize the opportunity to provide them with facts about health and sexuality and to communicate without embarrass - about responsible, loving relationships and the emotional maturity they require. As children grow, they face many decisions. With enough information and guidance, they also face promising futures.

The Best Strategies

It is up to adults to tap TV's power to deliver the messages *we* want our kids to hear. Discussing every sexual message on TV would require extraordinary vigilance. But adults can focus on selected messages about sexuality and other complex issues. These pointers can help you make television an excellent conversation starter:

Acknowledge your own feelings.

It can be difficult for adults to acknowledge the developing sexuality of children. But we must. We need to protect our children from the consequences of risky behaviors and at the same time encourage positive and secure feelings about human sexuality and love. Talk to other parents, perhaps some with children older than yours, about suggestions they may have. Ask your children's doctor to

The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air (NBC)

recommend appropriate books for you and your children about human reproduction and sexuality.

Watch what your children watch.

It is normal to want time for yourself, especially at the end of the day. When the kids are being entertained by TV, you can take a look at the newspaper, catch up with a friend on the phone or complete another item on a seemingly endless list of household chores. But watch "their" shows as often as you can and suggest shows you would like them to see.

Ask children's opinions....

Regularly ask open-ended questions like "How do you feel about ...?" or "What do you think about...?" Even if you do not receive a thoughtful response you will be nurturing the critical thinking skills that help children learn to question media messages. If you ask direct questions like "Do you act like that character?," you put kids on the spot.

...and share yours.

Look, listen, then discuss your own thoughts and express your opinions on the issues. Children need to know your bottom line as they begin to form their own views.

Quick, the commercial's on!

Use commercial time to deliver your own brief messages. You may get more attention when there's a break in the show and your children come up for air.

Apply sensitivity.

Be aware of what shows children choose to watch with you and those they prefer to watch alone. Be sensitive about who is present when starting conversations. Young people often feel embarrassed by discussions of sexuality in front of their friends or other adults.

Have fun!

Keep discussions informal. Avoid lecturing. Children will protest constant criticism of programming they enjoy. Instead, transform a show's negative messages into positive discussion by asking them for their views.

The Right Questions

When sending messages about sexuality, TV uses innuendo and humor—methods that confuse young people. To give your children a straightforward translation of a show's sexual messages, you will need to sift through and explain extra-long looks, sly smiles, raised eyebrows, body language, double-meaning word play and other TV tricks.

But more than explaining shows' messages, learn what your children pick up on their own. They may misunderstand the show's message. Or they may understand exactly what the show is saying — even when it's incorrect, insensitive information. The following questions will get conversations started.

Family and Friends

- What is a family? Do you know children who are adopted? Do you have friends or classmates with step-parents? With half-brothers and -sisters? With one parent living with them? With a parent living with a friend?

Getting By (NBC)

- Is there a television family that you would like to be a part of? One that you wouldn't? Why?
- Is there one that reminds you of your own family?
- Do the parents on this show really know what their kids are doing or thinking? Do the parents try to communicate well? Do the kids try? Are both "sides" truthful with one another?
- What do you think of the star's friends? Would you like friends like that? Why or why not?
- Do you think the TV parents approve of their children's friends? If you were a parent, what would you do if your child had a friend you didn't trust?
- Can boys and girls, or men and women, be friends with each other without being romantically or sexually involved?
- Who has the most influence on the children on this show—friends or parents? What do you think about that?

Values and Emotions

- What are beliefs/values? What are the values of your family? Of your favorite television characters? Can people with different beliefs/values get along with one another? Why or why not? Why are values important?
- Is school important to the kids on this show? If not, what is important? What do you think about that?
- Do these kids have plans for the future? What are yours?
- Do the characters on this show express their true emotions or do they hide them?
- How do people express their feelings for each other in this show? How would you react if someone told you they were angry with you? Or that they liked you?

Trust and Responsibility

- What does it mean to trust someone? Would you trust that character? Why or why not? Have you ever felt you couldn't trust a friend with a secret? When do you share secrets?
- Have you ever lost confidence in someone? What happened? How could you trust them again?
- What chores or responsibilities do the kids on this show have? Would you give your kids more or fewer responsibilities? What do you think about the chores you have to do?

- Do you think young characters on television feel pressure to do what their friends are doing? Do they try alcohol, drugs or sex because their friends have tried them?

Relationships

- What do you think of that relationship? Would you want to be his or her girlfriend or boyfriend? What makes a good romantic relationship?
- How do people act when they like each other? Do boys and girls act differently?
- What do you think of a girl asking a guy out?
- How old should someone be before they go out with a date?
- Do you think kids feel they have to kiss on a first date? What about doing more than that?
- Would you ever cancel plans with a friend if someone you really liked asked you out for the same time? How would you feel if your friend did that?

Sexual Behavior and Sex Roles

- Do you think those characters are ready for a sexual relationship? Why or why not?
- What responsibilities go along with sexual intercourse? How can you prevent an unwanted pregnancy or a sexually transmitted disease?
- Have you ever heard TV characters talk about the responsibilities of sex? Are both partners responsible for learning about how to prevent sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancy? Why? Are both partners responsible for the emotional consequences of beginning a sexual relationship?
- Who do you think feels more pressure about sex, males or females? What do kids at school say about that?
- How could you communicate your feelings about wanting or not wanting a sexual relationship? Do you think teens or adults on TV do that well?
- Should teenagers have sex? Should adults tell them not to? Why or why not?
- What do you think about teenagers having babies? Would you want to be a teenage parent? What would you say if a friend of yours told you she or he wanted a baby? What reasons do you think your friend would have?
- Do you know what homosexuality is? Do you know what "lesbian" and "gay" means? Has anyone ever told you he or she is a lesbian or gay? How did you feel?
- Which characters act like you think a man should? Which act like you think a woman should?
- Who is your favorite male character? Female character?

Race, Religion and Culture

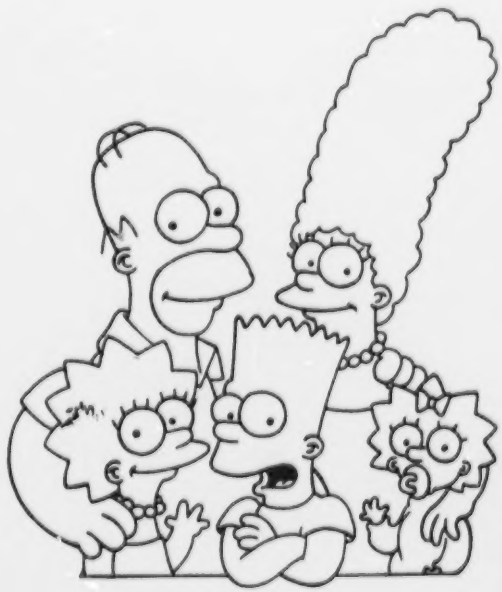
- What is the ethnic or racial background of characters on this show? Is it the same for all of the characters? What do you think about that?
- What is the religion of those characters? Do they discuss religious traditions?
- Do kids at school talk about white friends who "act black," or black friends who "act white"? What do they mean? What are symbols of culture for African-American kids? What are symbols of culture for white kids? For Latino kids? For Asian kids? What are shared symbols for Americans, regardless of background?
- What are "stereotypes"? Are any characters on this show a stereotype?
- Do the African-American, Asian, Hispanic and white characters on your favorite shows seem to have the same choices available to them? Why or why not? Does it seem that way in real life?
- Do the kids on this show have friends from different racial or ethnic backgrounds? Do kids at your school? Do you? Is it easy or difficult to be friends with kids from different backgrounds?
- Is English the first language the characters on this show learned? Do kids in your school speak different languages?

Extra Credit

Combining television viewing with interactive activities is another way you can use TV's messages to initiate discussions. Try a couple of the following exercises.

Changin' Times

Watch a new show about a family and a rerun of a show from the 1950s, '60s or '70s like "Father Knows Best," "I Love Lucy," "All in the Family," "The Jeffersons," "The Brady Bunch." Compare fashions, decor, types of families and ways of living. Are differences between the two shows easy to spot? What are they? How are television families still similar? Have young people focus on the roles for men and women in the shows. What are they? Does it seem like roles have changed? Why or why not?



The Simpsons (Fox)

Commercials

Watch several commercials with a critical eye, then ask how the advertisement sells the product. Look for ads that use sex to sell and discuss whether that approach is necessary or related to the product. Ask the kids what commercials they and their friends like, and if those ads make them want the product. Why?

That's Me

Have young people select a moment or line from a show that expresses a feeling they have had. Ask how their reactions compare to those of the characters and how they handled the situation.

Do it Again

Look back at a show you've just watched and ask children and preteens to do a quick rewrite, starting at a specific point. Talk about how and why they would have changed the action and outcome of the show.

Power of the Pen

Have children write one letter to the producers of a show they liked and one to the producers of a show they did not like. Review the letters and discuss what makes some shows better than others. Send the letters to the producers. (Addresses on pages 21-23.)

What's Important?

Have everyone list values that are important to them. Look for examples of those values in favorite shows. Explore which values are most and least important and which ones are more likely to be compromised.

Clarissa Explains It All (Nickelodeon)

Melrose Place (Fox)

What's On? Program Guide for 1993-94

CPO chooses programs for this guide based on: the time the show is broadcast (7:00 p.m. 9:30 p.m., weekday afternoons or Saturday morning), whether the show is or is likely to be popular among young people and whether storylines will start productive conversations. Likely discussion topics for this year's shows include:

- Relationships and communication with friends, family members and boy friends or girl friends
- Adolescent sexuality and development
- Marriage and childbearing
- Divorce
- Gender roles at home and in the workplace
- Culture, ethnicity and race relations
- School, education and careers
- Rites of passage/milestones of childhood and adolescence

CPO does not rate the quality of these shows. Adults should discuss with children which programs are appropriate for viewing.

☆ Titles marked with a star are winners of a Nancy Susan Reynolds Award from CPO which honors outstanding portrayals of issues relating to sexuality, family planning and reproductive health. See page 24 to see how you can help nominate next year's winners.

Addresses of the companies that produce each show and the networks that air them are on pages 21-23.

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New this Season

Adventures of Brisco County, Jr. (Fox)

Wild West adventurer Brisco County, Jr. is a bounty hunter with a Harvard law degree. His escapades rounding up outlaws are a parody of classic Westerns, but include standards like frontier shoot-outs and horse chases.

Warner Bros. Television

Against the Grain (NBC)

A drama about a small-town Texas football coach and his tight-knit family, the show attempts to portray high school athletics realistically. This town takes football seriously, so the pressure is on Coach Clemons (John Terry) and his family.

Warner Bros. Television

Boy Meets World (ABC)

Eleven-year-old Cory Matthews (Ben Savage, brother of Fred "Wonder Years" Savage) has his own theories about life, relationships and growing up. But the alternative viewpoints of his father, mother, older brother, younger sister, best friend and his teacher, Mr. Feeny (William Daniels), constantly throw him off-balance. Perhaps most irritating to Cory is that he's the kid who lives next door to Mr. Feeny, who's equal parts stuffy and witty.

Touchstone TV/Witt/Thomas Prods.

Café American (NBC)

Valerie Bertinelli plays a divorced American woman who moves to Paris and takes a job in a small restaurant. But she speaks no French. *C'est une probleme.*

Warner Bros. Television

Boy Meets World (ABC)

Dave's World (CBS)

Based on humorist Dave Barry's syndicated columns, this show is about a husband, father and semi-responsible citizen who, as a former child of the '60s, is confronting the absurdities of life in the '90s. Joining him in the struggle are his wife, two sons, editor and buddies.

CBS Entertainment Prods.

Family Album (CBS)

For better or worse, the Lerner family – mom, dad and three kids – has moved back to Philadelphia from California to reunite with parents, grandparents and siblings and to discover just what multi-generational togetherness means.

Warner Bros. Television

George (ABC)

Ex-heavyweight boxing champion George Foreman stars as George Foster, a retired boxer whose search for a new challenge leads him to start a youth center in a low-income neighborhood. His manner with kids is unconventional and direct. With humor, George is determined to help kids find their place in the world – and he'll learn a few things about himself, too.

Columbia Pictures TV

Dave's World (CBS)

Getting By (NBC)

A divorced woman, a widow and their four children try to make ends meet by sharing a home in the Chicago suburbs. Blending the personalities – insecure Cathy Hale (Cindy Williams) and her 16- and 9-year-old daughters and worldly wise Dolores Dixon (Telma Hopkins) and her teen sons – won't be easy without some humor.

Warner Bros. Television

Grace Under Fire (ABC)

A Southern woman who ended her eight-year marriage, Grace Kelly, is played by comic Brett Butler . She's chosen working hard and raising three children independently over marriage to "a knuckle-dragging, cousin-loving, beer-sucking, redneck husband." Her strengths include a quick wit, strong will and the support of her children and friends

The Carsey-Werner Co.

It Had to be You (CBS)

Faye Dunaway stars as a haughty Boston socialite and publisher who is very much in control of her professional life. On the personal side, she's awkward and somewhat dazed when she falls for a widowed carpenter (Robert Urich) with three sons.

Warner Bros. Television

Joe's Life (ABC)

Described in Hollywood as "the male **Roseanne**," this show features Peter Onorati as Joe Gennaro, a suddenly unemployed executive who's now home with his kids while his wife works at an office. At night, he works as a chef in his brother's restaurant. The new situation presents unexpected opportunities for Joe to focus on his responsibilities and concerns as a father.

ABC Productions

Living Single (Fox)

Three young, upwardly mobile women try to make sense of life, love and their careers while sharing an apartment in New York. Hip-hop rapper Queen Latifah stars as Khadijah James, the no-nonsense founding editor of *Flavor Magazine*, a guide for urban women. Kim Coles is her dizzy cousin Synclaire, and Kim Fields plays her vain friend Regine.

Warner Bros. Television

Adventures of Superman (ABC)

In this latest incarnation of the Superman saga, Clark Kent is no nerd. Hunky Dean Cain, as Clark and the super guy, is witty, sophisticated and romantic – an equal match for quick and funny ace reporter Lois Lane (Teri Hatcher). The show's a romantic comedy, with a '90s spin on the old Superman series.

Warner Bros. Television

The Mommies (NBC)

Two homemakers who are next-door neighbors and best friends help each other cope with family "traumas" like homework, holidays, teens and carpools. Comediennes Marilyn Kentz and Caryl Kristensen, two real-life mothers who formed a stage act a few years ago, star in this "homemade" series.

Paramount TV

The Nanny (CBS)

When a widowed and rich Broadway producer hires a young, working-class woman from Queens to care for his three children, the nurturing that results is "a constant mixing of the blue blood and the blue collar," according to actress Fran Drescher, who stars as the nanny.

Tristar TV

Phenom (ABC)

Angela Doolan (Angela Goethals) is a 15-year-old with a single mom, older brother, younger sister and a huge tennis-playing talent. Her coach, Lou Del La Rosa (William Devane), is reknowned, loud and pushing to take over Angela's life. Her mother, Dianne (Judith Light), is supportive, but worried: she wants Angela to have a normal life.

Columbia TV

Saved by the Bell: The College Years (NBC)

From the successful Saturday morning series of the same name come the graduates of Bayside High School. They're in college now, where continuing education takes place both in and out of the classroom.

NBC Productions

The Sinbad Show (Fox)

The unmistakable 6'5" comedian Sinbad plays David Bryan, a hip bachelor and up-and-coming video games designer. His lifestyle undergoes a major change when he opens up his heart and home to two young foster children who are brother and sister.

Touchstone TV

Saved by the Bell: The College Years (NBC)

Thea (ABC)

Thea Turrell (comedienne Thea Vidale) is a widowed mother who works in a Houston supermarket and runs her own one-chair beauty salon on the corner of her porch. Her four children are: Jarvis, a serious 16-year-old protective of his siblings; Jerome, 14, who's a bit out of control; Danesha, 12, studious, shy and discovering boys and James, 7, the baby. Thea's sister and brother-in-law interact regularly with the family.

Castle Rock Entertainment

Returning Favorites

☆Beverly Hills, 90210 (Fox)

Continuing complications of romance, family, education and follow this widely recognized series into its fourth season. The drama has traced a group of Beverly Hills teens through their high school years and now follows them into college and young adulthood. Watched by young people and adults, **Beverly Hills, 90210** has focused on sexual and family relationships, social justice issues and substance abuse.

Spelling Television Inc.

Blossom (NBC)

Blossom (NBC)

Seventeen-year-old Blossom Russo's metamorphosis into womanhood continues. For the first three seasons, Blossom (Mayim Bialik) was the only female in a family of grandfather, father and two older brothers. Now, she's reconnected with her estranged mother, and still connected to her brother Joey and buddy Six, who are thinking about losing their virginity. One of them will.

Witt/Thomas Prods./Touchstone TV

Dinosaurs (ABC)

The ups and downs of a dinosaur family in 60 million B.C. strangely parallel modern domestic life in this popular series from the Jim Henson dynasty. The show provides an unusual context for exploring family life.

Michael Jacobs Prods./Walt Disney Television

Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman (CBS)

Transplanted from the east, the strong-willed Dr. Michaela "Mike" Quinn (Jane Seymour) proved herself equal to challenges of the 1850s West, but townsfolk have only recently begun to accept "the medicine man" who is a woman. Adventures continue on the frontier, the gender front and a home with three new kids to tend to.

CBS Entertainment Prods.

Evening Shade (CBS)

Burt Reynolds plays a high school football coach in Evening Shade, Arkansas, a small southern town of families and characters. His work with teens, including his own children, touches on matters important to young people and their families, including adolescent sexuality.

MTM/CBS Entertainment Prods.

Family Matters (ABC)

In their seventh season, the characters from this show remain recognized and popular among young people. Parents Carl and Harriette Winslow now have four teens to contend with, along with Harriette's sister and her baby, plus Carl's mother, and good old neighborhood nerd, Steve Urkel.

Warner Bros. Television

The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air (NBC)

Returning for his fourth season, Will Smith, the "Prince," begins college and moves into an unusual version of undergraduate housing – the pool house of his wealthy cousins' estate. Will hails originally from a tough West Philadelphia neighborhood, but he's lived most of his teen years with his cousins, amidst the posh and preppy of Bel-Air, California.

Quincy Jones /David Salzman Entertainment/NBC Prods.

Full House (ABC)

Danny, the dad (Bob Saget), heads for the altar in the seventh season of this show about a widower raising three daughters. New mom Vicky (Gail Edwards) adjusts to the tortures and milestones that accompany life with the girls, an older and younger teen and a child in elementary school.

Warner Bros. Television

Hanging With Mr. Cooper (ABC)

His days as a professional basketball player behind him, Mark Cooper (Mark Curry) is a laid-back teacher at the high school he attended. He's also Vanessa's (Holly Robinson) platonic roommate, in his newly purchased home. Fun in the classroom comes to halt with the arrival of a sharp-tongued new principal, Ms. P. J. (Nell Carter). At home, there are changes too, when Mark's cousin and her daughter move in.

Warner Bros. Television

Home Improvement (ABC)

The third season of this show presents new challenges for Tim Taylor, host of a televised home-improvement show called "Tool Time," his wife and three sons. Tim must deal with a new boss from the company that sponsors his show; Jill's work and a charity project put even more demands on her time and energy; the boys deal with school changes and the discovery of girls.

Touchstone TV

The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air (NBC)

In Living Color (Fox)

An ensemble of comedians and actors perform sketches, short films and musical parodies, lampooning issues, events and celebrities ranging from athletes to politicians, living and dead. This rowdy show features surprise celebrity appearances and performances by rap and hip-hop acts.

Twentieth TV

In the Mix (PBS)

This magazine-style series showcases news and entertainment that's interesting and important to teenagers. Along with reports, interviews and videos from the music and entertainment world, the show delivers information on adolescent health and issues ranging from relationships to peer and gang pressure to consumer awareness. Three teens host the program, backed by a corps of teenage reporters.

WNYC-TV

Martin (Fox)

Martin Lawrence stars for a second season as Martin the wise-cracking Detroit radio-show host, within whom lurks a sensitive guy. Joining him for the ups and downs of romance and relationships are his girlfriend Gina (Tisha Campbell) and their cast of friends and coworkers.

HBO Independent Productions

Roc (FOX)

Melrose Place (Fox)

This popular, soap-opera style series continues, in its second season, to explore the lives, loves, joys and frustrations of a group of young adults living in a trendy Los Angeles neighborhood. Storylines featuring Heather Locklear as a seductive advertising executive have grabbed viewers' attention.

Darren Star Prods./Spelling Television Inc.

Roc (Fox)

Meet hard-working Roc, his wife Eleanor, his opinionated father Andrew and his free-spirited brother, Joey. The third season of this show launches a growing household when Eleanor has a baby and the family takes in an 11-year-old girl.

HBO Independent Productions

☆ Roseanne (ABC)

Until comedienne Roseanne Arnold introduced the character of Roseanne Conner, television moms were a pretty quiet group. But this mom, loved by her family and viewers for her strengths and weaknesses, has a lot to say about what's good for herself and her family. This season, with both daughters out on their own, her newest idea is both surprising and understandable: Roseanne wants to have a baby. This show is consistently one of the highest-rated entertainment series.

The Carsey-Werner Co.

Saved by the Bell: The New Class (NBC)

The new students at Bayside High School are as prepared for misadventure and awkward antics as preceeding classes were. Just to make sure, old cast members – now moved to college and a new, primetime show – may make surprise visits.

NBC Productions

The Simpsons (Fox)

In its fifth season, the nation's favorite cartoon family struggles to be whatever normal is in today's American suburbs. Homer, the dad, continues to give bad advice at home and a lackluster performance at work; his wife, Marge, and their three children continue to outpace him regularly. Real-life celebrities, this season including George Harrison and Michelle Pfeiffer, lend their voices to guest characters. When Homer develops a crush on the Pfeiffer character, he struggles to remain faithful to Marge.

Gracie Films

☆ Step by Step (ABC)

It's the third season for this television family created when Frank Lambert (Patrick Duffy) and his three children joined Carol Foster (Suzanne Somers) and her three. In case the household isn't crowded enough, Carol and Frank are talking about having a baby together. Look for more adjustments within this large group of personalities and different philosophies.

Warner Bros. Television

Where I Live (ABC)

Take a look at urban America through the St. Martins, a close-knit Harlem family that reflects the sense of community that can keep a neighborhood strong. Son Doug, 18, relies on the wisdom of his family and friends as he learns fundamental lessons about life, on his way to adulthood.

Touchstone TV

☆ABC Afterschool Specials

New specials are: **Love Hurts**, which explores violence between a talented young pianist and her basketball star boyfriend; **Montana Crossroads**, the story of a 17-year-old girl trying to resolve conflicting issues of personal ambition, family ties and new romance; **Jacqui's Dilemma**, a documentary about a fictionalized girl facing choices surrounding her unintended pregnancy.

ABC also plans to repeat: **Surviving a Break-Up**, a special featuring Oprah Winfrey and other celebrities who discuss the range of responses to romantic break-ups, and **The Mall**, a three-part series about a group of characters acquainted through their workplace, for which the series is named.

☆ CBS Schoolbreak Specials

CPO's Media Project assisted the creators of two new specials: **Other Mothers**, a story about two lesbian mothers of a teen son and the family's work for acceptance in a new community and **Love in the Dark Ages**, which focuses on the experience a young couple has facing a sexually transmitted disease.

CBS's additional specials include: **Two Teens and a Baby**, which shows two brothers babysitting; **But He Loves Me**, a look at girlfriend bashing and **Abby, My Love**, which discusses incest-child abuse.

The Cable Networks

Adventures in Wonderland (Disney Channel)

For younger children, this show flashes a mix of rapping dancers, familiar characters and original songs. It focuses on timely topics.

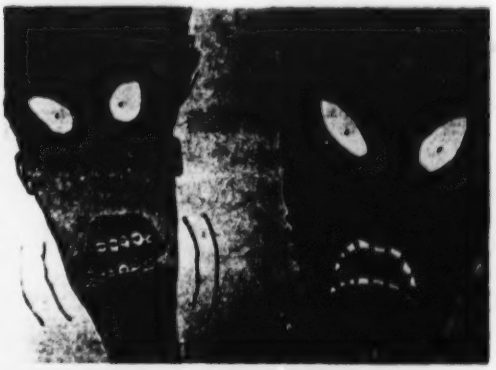
Avonlea (Disney Channel)

Five new episodes continue the adventures of Felicity, Sara, Gus, Felix, Aunt Hetty, Olivia and Uncle Jasper in this acclaimed dramatic series based on short stories by Lucy Maud Montgomery. Set at the turn of the century, **Avonlea** focuses on the lives of the extended King family from picturesque Prince Edward Island. The series features ongoing and new characters in each episode.

Avonlea (Disney Channel)

The Baby-Sitters Club (HBO)

Based on Ann M. Martin's books, this show about a group of girls who operate a baby-sitting service covers real-life problems, explores values and encourages young people to contribute to their communities.



Beavis and Butthead (MTV)

The Beavis and Butthead Show (MTV)

Their actions are rude and raw. Their references are adolescent and sexual and the trademark moronic laughter is maddening. Their popularity with kids and controversy with adults is enormous.

Beavis and Butt-head, just moved to a later time on MTV, talk about music videos and about anything else they feel like "dissing." At Each episode viewers read: "Beavis and Butt-head are not real. They are stupid cartoon people made up by this Texas guy.... Beavis and Butt-head are dumb, crude, thoughtless, ugly, sexist, self-destructive fools. But for some reason, the little wienerheads make us laugh."As the debate rages on, ask kids what they think.

Clarissa Explains It All (Nickelodeon)

Now 16, Clarissa Darling still has a unique point of view on everything and she's unafraid to face the camera and issue regular reports. Diverse as she is, Clarissa counts Lisa Simpson, Lynda Barry and George Eliot among "the all-time cool girls." Girl viewers like Clarissa, and she has a lot of adult fans, but the real surprise to programmers is her continuing popularity among young boys.

The Real World (MTV)

A new group of young people launch the second season of this documentary-style soap opera, moved from Manhattan to Los Angeles. Action and dialogue unfold spontaneously as the 18- to 25-year-old cast discusses careers, politics, dreams, loves and hates. The confessional cast is composed of four men and three women.

The Ren and Stimpy Show (Nickelodeon)

Creative it is. Warm and fuzzy, it isn't. This cartoon features Ren, a violent and moody chihuahua, and Stimpy, a large, dumb and pathetic cat. For listening pleasure, there's burps, grunts and feindish cackles. For watching, the humor extends to gross depictions of body functions.

There's debate over how this cartoon — a hit for Nickelodeon— affects kids. Says creator, John Kricfalusi: "Cartoons don't have to be good for you. Give kids a break."

Talking *to* TV: Your Opinion Counts

When you have a compliment, question or criticism about television, go to the source: let networks and producers, as well as advocacy groups and even local newspapers, know what you think. Viewers' letters to the entertainment industry are welcomed and noticed. They give people the feedback they need to improve programming.

Write, and write often, and encourage your children to do the same. Discuss what you don't like, but be sure to let people know what you do like. If there's a program or an episode that was right on target, tell the writers and producers you want to see more shows like it, and let the network know that, too. If you think a show's producers have bungled an issue, let them know specifically how. But don't just string along complaints; that's not effective.

Each program listed in the Program Guide includes the name of the production company that makes it. Below are addresses of those companies and the networks, as well as organizations concerned with television and young people.

Production Companies

ABC Productions
2020 Ave. of the Stars, 5th floor
Los Angeles, CA 90067

The Carsey-Werner Company
4024 Radford Ave., Bldg. 3
Studio City, CA 91604

Castle Rock Entertainment
335 N. Maple Dr., Suite 135
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

CBS Entertainment
7800 Beverly Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90036-2188

Columbia Pictures Television
c/o Sony Pictures Plaza
1000 West Washington Blvd.
Culver City, CA 90232

Walt Disney TV
Walt Disney Studios
500 South Buena Vista
Team Disney Bldg.
Burbank, CA 91521-0001

Gracie Films
Twentieth Television
10201 West Pico Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90035

HBO Independent Productions
2049 Century Park East #4100
Los Angeles, CA 90067-3215

Michael Jacobs Productions
500 Buena Vista St.
Animation 2A
Burbank, CA 91521

Quincy Jones/David Salzman Entertainment
3800 Barham Blvd., Suite 503
Los Angeles, CA 90068

MTM/CBS Studios
4024 Radford Ave.
Studio City, CA 91604

NBC Productions
330 Bob Hope Dr.
Burbank, CA 91523-0001

Paramount Television Group
5555 Melrose Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90038-3197

Spelling Television Inc.
5700 Wilshire Blvd., 5th floor
Los Angeles, CA 90036-3696

Darren Star Productions
(See Spelling Television Inc.)

Touchstone Television
(See Walt Disney TV)

TriStar TV
9336 W. Washington Blvd.
Culver City, CA 90232

Twentieth Television
10201 W. Pico Blvd..
Los Angeles, CA 90035

Martin (Fox)

Warner Bros. Television
4000 Warner Blvd.
Burbank, CA 91522-0001

Witt/Thomas Productions
846 N. Cahuenga Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90038-3197

WYNC-TV
1 Centre St.
New York, NY 10007

Networks

ABC
2040 Ave. of the Stars
Los Angeles, CA 90067

CBS
7800 Beverly Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90036

The Disney Channel
3800 West Alameda Ave.
Burbank, CA 91505-4398

Fox
10201 West Pico Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90035

HBO
1100 Ave. of the Americas
New York, NY 10036

MTV
1515 Broadway
New York, NY 10036

NBC
3000 Alameda Ave.
Burbank, CA 91523

Nickelodeon
1515 Broadway
20th Floor
New York, NY 10036

PBS
1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA 22314

Organizations Concerned with TV

American Federation of Teachers
555 New Jersey Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 879-4400

Children's Television Workshop
One Lincoln Plaza
New York, NY 10023
(212) 595-3456

Education Training Research (ETR) Associates
1700 Mission St.
Suite 203
Santa Cruz, CA 95061
(408) 438-4060

Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW
Washington, DC 20005

National Association of Broadcasters
1771 N St. NW
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 429-5300

National Council for Families and Television
3801 Barham Blvd. Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90068
(213) 876-5959

National Education Association
1201 16th St. NW
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 833-4000

Planned Parenthood Federation of America
810 7th Ave.
New York, NY 10014
(212) 541-7800

TV Guide
4 Radnor Corporate Center
Radnor, PA 19088
(215) 293-8500

*Cast and crew of **Beverly Hills, 90210** at CPO's 1992 Nancy Susan Reynolds Awards Program.*

Star Quality☆

The CPO Media Project invites you to notify us about programs, movies and reviews which you think may qualify for our annual Nancy Susan Reynolds Awards Program. The program pays tribute to entertainment television shows, radio broadcasts, media reviews and movies that have presented topics of sexuality honestly and responsibly.

Let us know about shows that have touched you. For reviews, we need the name of the publication or station, the name of the reviewer and the date of the review. For radio and television shows we need the name and the date that the episode aired. We do not restrict nominees to primetime shows; the Media Project considers many different shows from broadcast and cable networks, public television and public and commercial radio.

Thanks for your help. We look forward to hearing from you.

Nancy Susan Reynolds Awards
Jennifer Daves
CPO Media Project
3733 Motor Avenue, Suite 204
Los Angeles, CA 90034
Phone: (310) 559-5700
Fax: (310) 559-5784

More from the Center for Population Options...

"Media and Adolescent Sexuality"— this fact sheet includes information on teens' access to television, sexual content on TV, television's impact on adolescent self-esteem and public support for contraceptive advertising. $1.00 each.

"Sexuality and Television in the '80s: Reflections on a Decade of Change"— a retrospective paper on the history of and changes in the ways entertainment TV has addressed teen sexuality, family planning and sexually transmitted diseases. $2.00 each.

Life Planning Curricula

These resources use role-playing, exercises, worksheets, games and projects to develop young people's self-esteem and teach them how to define their goals and values and make informed, healthy choices about their lives. The aim is to prevent risky behavior and its consequences: too-early childbearing, sexually transmitted diseases, chemical dependency and violence. Exercises in the curricula list objectives, procedures, time and materials required, discussion points and optional activities. These curricula have been extensively tested and are used in classrooms and by community organizations nationwide.

- When I'm Grown — This three-volume curriculum for elementary school-age children offers an innovative approach to "life skills." It imparts sexuality, HIV prevention and health information within a comprehensive framework of self-esteem development, problem-solving, healthy peer and family communications, values clarification, goal achievement and career awareness. Diversity and citizenship responsibilities are addressed. The 200 participatory activities mix large/small-group, hands-on/discussion exercises and role playing to stimulate self-reflection and critical -thinking skills. Soft cover. Grades K-2 (1993), grades 3-4, 320 pp.(1992) and grades 5-6, 390 pp. (1992). One volume $44.95, all three for $99.95.
- Life Planning Education — designed for grades 7-12; available in Spanish. CPO's ground-breaking curriculum integrates self-esteem development, sexuality education and employment planning to help teens develop decision-making skills for now and in the future. Includes information about HIV/AIDS, other sexuality transmitted diseases and contraceptives. For junior/middle and senior high school teens, it also details how to use the materials in Hispanic communities. Worksheets in Spanish and English. 372pp. (Updated 1989) $44.95

For additional information about teen health and sexuality contact: The Center for Population Options: 1025 Vermont Ave. NW, Suite 200; Washington, D.C. 20005; (202) 347-5700.

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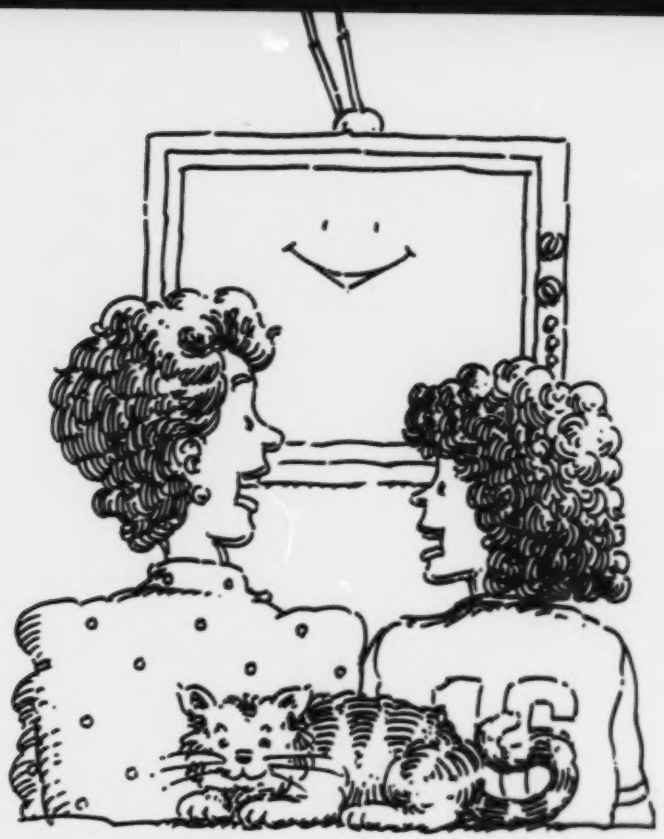

"TV gets kids' attention. It's up to parents to tap TV's power and use it to deliver the messages *we* want our kids to hear. ***Talking With TV*** is an excellent guide for parents who want to learn how to do this in a way that they and their children will enjoy."

–Elizabeth Winship, author of the syndicated "Ask Beth" advice column for young people

"***Talking With TV*** is a wonderful source of information. We support CPO in its efforts to encourage adults and children to use television to lead to informed discussion about important issues."

–Virginia McEnerney, Manager, Home Box Office's "Project Knowledge"

"***Talking with TV*** provides concrete examples of how to use television as a springboard for discussion of teen sexuality and other vital adolescent issues. It is an invaluable tool for parents and educators."

– Ame Simon, Capital Cities/ABC Inc.

the Center for Population Options